REMARKS

The above claim amendments were submitted by applicant on April 2, 2001, but were deemed to be in improper form. Applicant has now presented the claims in the format prescribed by 37 CFR § 1.173.

SURRENDER OF ORIGINAL PATENT: Statement under 37 CFR § 1.178(a)

The Office Action also notes that submission of the Original Patent is now required in order to obtain allowance. Applicant submits the Original Patent (US 5,590,342) is lost. Issued patents are normally kept in the patent file, and the original patent of 5,590,342 is not present in the file.

Applicant submits that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there is a deficiency in fees, please charge our Deposit Acct. No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/3/01

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